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Message Text

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51
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 IO-13 RSR-01 /145 W
---------- 014723
R 210950 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8126
INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2309

EO 11652: N/ A
TAGS: NATO, PFOR
SUBJ: PORTUGUESE PRESS HIGHLIGHTS HARD LINE
PORTIONS OF FONMIN PATRICIO' S NATO MINISTERIAL SPEECH

REF: COPENHAGEN 1356

1. SUMMARY: PRESS PLAY GIVEN PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER' S JUNE 15 SPEECH TO NATO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS HIGHLIGHTED MINISTER' S TREATMENT OF TRADITIONAL FAVORITE THEMES AS WELL AS HIS COMMENT THAT WEST HAS PREJUDICED ITS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES IN EXCHANGE FOR MINIMAL SOVIET CONCESSIONS AT CSCE/ MPT. END SUMMARY

2. LARGE CIRCULATION LISBON DAILY DIARIO DE NOTICIAS HAS GIVEN PROMINENT FRONTPAGE COVERAGE TO TOUGHER ASPECTS OF GOP FOREIGN MINISTER PATRICIO' S JUNE 15 SPEECH TO NATO MINISTERIAL, UNDER HEADLINE " UNDERTAKINGS WHICH PREJUDICE THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE WEST HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED, STATES THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONCERNING
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CSCE." ARTICLE QUOTES PATRICIO AS SAYING THAT WEST HAD ENDANGERED ITS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES IN EXCHANGE FOR " MINIMAL CONCESSIONS BY THE RUSSIANS." PATRICIO REPORTEDLY ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT DELAYING TACTICS USED BY UNNAMED COUNTRIES AT THE VIENNA MBFR PRELIMINARY TALKS, SAYING THESE TACTICS RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF CERTAIN PARTIES. SIMILAR BUT LESS SPECTACULAR COVERAGE IN OTHER PAPERS.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS, PATRICIO STRESSED FAMILIAR GOP THEME ON SOVIET ENCIRCLEMENT OF AFRICA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CAPE SEA LANES, ADDING SPECIFIC WARNINGS ABOUT SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS TO CONAKRY, POINTE NOIRE AND DAR ES SALAAM, WHICH " DIRECTLY THREATEN WESTERN INTERESTS." PATRICIO STATED THAT THE SHIPMENT OF GREAT QUANTITIES OF MODERN, OFFENSIVE WEAPONS TO " COASTS OF GUINEA" IS PARTICULARLY GRAVE.

4. IN BRIEF COMMENTS TO THE PRESS UPON HIS RETURN FROM COPENHAGEN, PATRICIO REITERATED THE POINTS MADE ABOVE.

5. COMMENT: FONOFF OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US PRESS ACCOUNTS MISINTERPRETED PATRICIO' S REMARKS, WHICH WERE INTENDED ONLY TO INDICATE THAT CONCESSIONS MUST BE MADE IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS. STILL, PRESS EMPHASIS GIVEN FONMIN' S STATEMENTS MAY BE FURTHER INDICATION THAT GOP WISHES TO ASSURE PORTUGUESE RIGHT WING THAT IT WILL SPEAK OUT FOR PORTUGAL' S AFRICAN INTERESTS, AND THAT IT IS FULLY AWARE OF THE MANY- SIDED COMMUNIST HOSTILITY TO PORTUGAL.
POST

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: PFOR, PO, NATO
To: EUR
LOURENCO MARQUES
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